

10/692,539

PD-200250

REMARKSI. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated May 31, 2007, claims 5, 13, and 21 have been cancelled, claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-20, and 22-24 remain in the application. Re-examination and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 10, the Office Action indicates that the subject matter of claims 5, 7, 13, 15, 21 and 23 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant has amended claims 1, 9 and 17 to recite the features of claims 5, 13 and 21, respectively.

III. Claim Amendments

Applicant's attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above. The Applicant is not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner and has amended the claims to expedite allowance. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

IV. Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, 18-20 and 22-24 incorporate the limitations of their related independent claims, and are therefore patentable on this basis. In addition, these claims recite novel elements even more remote from the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that these claims be allowed as well.

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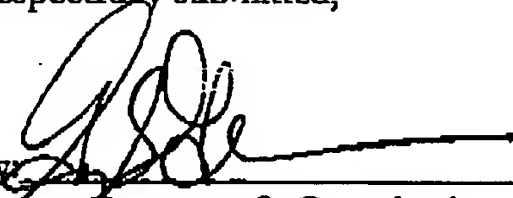
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V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____
Name: Georgann S. Grunebach
Registration No.: 33,179

The DIRECTV Group, Inc.
CA / LA1 / A109
2230 E. Imperial Highway
P. O. Box 956
El Segundo CA 90245-0956

Telephone No. (310) 964-4615